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THREE BIBLICAL SONNETS.¹

Arranged by PROFESSOR RICHARD G. MOULTON,
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I.

THE SLUGGARD.

Go to the ant thou sluggard;
Consider her ways, and be wise:
Which having no chief,
Overseer,
Or ruler,
Provideth her meat in the summer,
And gathereth her food in the harvest.

How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard?
When wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?
“Yet a little sleep,
A little slumber,
A little folding of the hands to sleep”—
So shall thy poverty come as a robber,
And thy want as an armed man!

Proverbs 6: 6-10.

¹ The limitation of the sonnet to fourteen lines (as is common in Italian and English sonnets) does not obtain in biblical poetry.—R. G. M.

II.

THE SLOTHFUL.

I went by the field of the slothful,
And by the vineyard of the man void of understanding,
 And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns,
 The face thereof was covered with nettles,
 And the stone wall thereof was broken down.
Then I beheld,
And considered well:
I saw,
And received instruction.
 "Yet a little sleep,
 A little slumber,
A little folding of the hands to sleep"—
So shall thy poverty come as a robber,
And thy want as an armed man.

Proverbs 24:30-34.

III.

THE FOOL.

Weep for the dead,
 For light hath failed him;
And weep for a fool,
 For understanding hath failed him.
Weep more sweetly for the dead,
 Because he hath found rest;
 But the life of the fool
Is worse than death.
Seven days are the days of mourning for the dead:
But for a fool and an ungodly man, all the days of his life

Ecclesiasticus 22:11.